



Cardinal Praises Volunteers During Visit to Immigration Hotline

Cardinal Dolan recently visited with volunteers staffing phone lines for the annual Citizenship NOW! Hotline, launched by the New York Daily News and City University of New York (CUNY) to address the lack of access to free and confidential immigration information for people who need it most.

Since its inception in 2004, the springtime call-in program has provided more than 143,000 callers with information on immigration issues ranging from family petitions and residency to U.S. citizenship. According to organizers, the event has generated special interest during presidential election years.

The cardinal expressed his gratitude to CUNY, the Daily News and numerous neighborhood and civic leaders for their “remarkable unity in promoting what is a cause so close to the American dream and to the Judeo-Christian ideal.”

When people ask the cardinal, “Why are you and the Church so pro-immigrant?” his reply, he said, is “because I believe in the Bible, which teaches to love and welcome the immigrant, and because ... I’m an American.”



Cardinal Dolan greets volunteers and staff at the annual CUNY/Daily News Citizenship NOW! hotline at CUNY Guttman Community College in Manhattan.
Photo: MARY DiBIASE BLAICH

Accompanying the cardinal was Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities. After the cardinal received a round of applause for his remarks, an organizer asked for a round of applause for Msgr. Sullivan for the work he and his colleagues do throughout the year on behalf of immigrants.

Excerpted with permission from Catholic New York, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York. To read more, visit www.cny.org.

